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31, 1997, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/010,898, filed January 31, 1996.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2-26.

Please add new claims 27-39, as follows:

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27. A method for treating a subject afflicted with intestinal malabsorption, said method comprising:

administering to the subject an amount of a composition effective to increase the subject's blood folate level to a normal blood folate level, wherein the composition comprises:

one or more natural isomers of reduced folate selected from the group consisting of (6S)-tetrahydrofolic acid, 5-methyl-(6S)-tetrahydrofolic acid, 5-formyl-(6S)-tetrahydrofolic acid, 10-formyl-(6R)-tetrahydrofolic acid, 5,10-methylene-(6R)-tetrahydrofolic acid, 5,10-methenyl-(6R)-tetrahydrofolic acid, 5-formimino-(6S)-tetrahydrofolic acid, and polyglutamyl derivatives thereof; and

a nutritional substance selected from the group consisting of a food preparation, an essential nutrient preparation, and combinations thereof;

wherein, when the nutritional substance is a food preparation, the food preparation comprises two or more food components and each gram of said food preparation has a natural molar amount, N, of said one or more natural isomers of reduced folate, wherein N is greater or equal to zero and wherein each gram of said composition has a total molar amount, T, of said one or more natural isomers of reduced folate greater than N;

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wherein, when the nutritional substance is an essential nutrient preparation, the essential nutrient preparation comprises a vitamin other than ascorbic acid.

28. A method according to claim 27, wherein, when the nutritional substance is an essential nutrient preparation and when the composition comprises an amount of 5-formyl-(6S)-tetrahydrofolic acid, the composition further comprises no 5-formyl-(6R)-tetrahydrofolic acid, or, if present, the composition further comprises 5-formyl-(6R)-tetrahydrofolic acid in an amount less than the amount of 5-formyl-(6S)-tetrahydrofolic acid present in the composition.

29. A method according to claim 27, wherein the essential nutrient preparation further comprises ascorbic acid.

30. A method according to claim 27, wherein the one or more natural isomers of reduced folate is selected from the group consisting of 5-methyl-(6S)-tetrahydrofolic acid, 5-formyl-(6S)-tetrahydrofolic acid, 5,10-methenyl-(6R)-tetrahydrofolic acid, and polyglutamyl derivatives thereof.

31. A method according to claim 27, wherein each of the one or more natural isomers of reduced folate is substantially chirally pure.

32. A method according to claim 27, wherein the one or more natural isomers of reduced folate is 5-methyl-(6S)-tetrahydrofolic acid or a polyglutamyl derivative thereof.

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33. A method according to claim 27, wherein the one or more natural isomers of reduced folate is 5-formyl-(6S)-tetrahydrofolic acid or a polyglutamyl derivative thereof.

34. A method according to claim 27, wherein the subject is a human subject.

35. A method according to claim 27, wherein the subject is afflicted with celiac disease.

36. A method according to claim 27, wherein the subject is afflicted with tropical sprue.

37. A method according to claim 27, wherein said administering is carried out periodically.

38. A method according to claim 27, wherein said administering is carried out daily.

39. A method according to claim 27 further comprising:

determining blood folate levels in the subject's blood.

REMARKS

The claims pending in the present application are directed to a composition and to a method for treating intestinal malabsorption. In the parent application (U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/117,586), claim 62 was directed to methods for treating intestinal malabsorption. This claim was rejected in the April 22, 1999, office action in that case. To expedite prosecution of that case, claim 62